

McGrath Community Strategic Plan

A cooperative Effort of:

McGrath Native Village Council

City of McGrath

Local Businesses

Residents

June 2003

Preparation of this plan was financed in part by the Mini-Grant Program with funds from the Denali Commission and U.S. Forest Service. The Mini-Grant Program is administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Business Development.

McGrath Native Village Council

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Resolution 03-17

A Resolution adopting the McGrath Community Strategic Plan

WHEREAS, the McGrath Native Village Council, hereinafter, called "Tribe" is the governing body of the Native Community of McGrath and is a federally recognized tribe, and

WHEREAS, the tribe realizes the need for a McGrath Community Strategic Plan, and

WHEREAS, this strategic plan has been a cooperative effort between the Tribe, the City of McGrath, Local Businesses and Residents, and

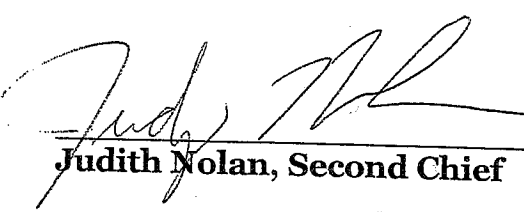
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the McGrath Native Village Council fully supports the final copy of the McGrath Community Strategic Plan and here by adopts the final copy dated on this day.

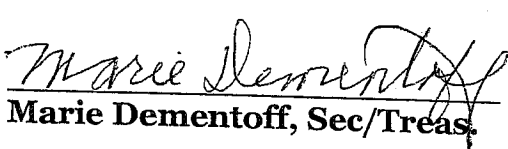
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly considered and adopted by the McGrath Native Village Council on the 16 day of June, 2003 by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 absent.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:


Judith Nolan, Second Chief


Marie Dementoff, Sec/Treas.

McGrath Community Strategic Plan

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Description of the Community – Overview

Location, Geology, Climate

McGrath is located 221 miles northwest of Anchorage and 269 miles southwest of Fairbanks in Interior Alaska. It lies at approximately 62.956° N Latitude, 155.595° W Longitude (Sec. 18, T033 N, R033W, Seward Meridian.)

The city is situated on an inside meander, on the northwest bank of the Kuskokwim River, lies in a floodplain, and is nearly encircled by the river. The Takotna River enters the Kuskokwim River directly north of McGrath, near the location of the original town site. The region is characterized as vast lowland of rivers, oxbow and pothole lakes, and marshy tundra. McGrath is located in the Mt. McKinley Recording District. The area encompasses 48.9 square miles of land and 5.7 square miles of water. The Kuskokwim River arises from the north slopes of the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim Mountains, and is a large drainage that encompasses about 11,700 square miles, flowing 450 miles to the Bearing Sea near Bethel, Alaska.

McGrath is within the bottomland spruce-poplar forest, which closely follows the Kuskokwim River channels. Woody vegetation varies from sparse to dense along the shoreline. White spruce, paper birch and quaking aspen predominate on well-drained soils. Balsam poplar (cottonwood) is dominant on the active floodplain, with thick stands of willow and alder shrubs. Poorly drained soils with permafrost near the surface support black spruce and tundra vegetation, such as sedges, mosses, Labrador tea and low-growing woody shrubs. The wetter sites in the region support diverse wetland plant communities such as low scrub bogs, herbaceous marshes, and meadows.

Common fishes in the river include sheefish, humpback and broad whitefishes, rainbow smelt, and blackfish, as well as four species of salmon: chum, coho, chinook, and sockeye. The forests, muskeg and tundra habitats support moose, wolf, grizzly and black bear, lynx, snowshoe hare, and beaver. Waterfowl present are mallards, pintails, green wing teals, shovelers, Canada geese, and tundra swans. Spruce and ruffed grouse, bald and golden eagles, as well as white-crowned sparrows, ruby-crowned kinglet, boreal chickadee, fox sparrow, common redpoll, yellow warbler, and bank, cliff and tree swallows nest in the area.

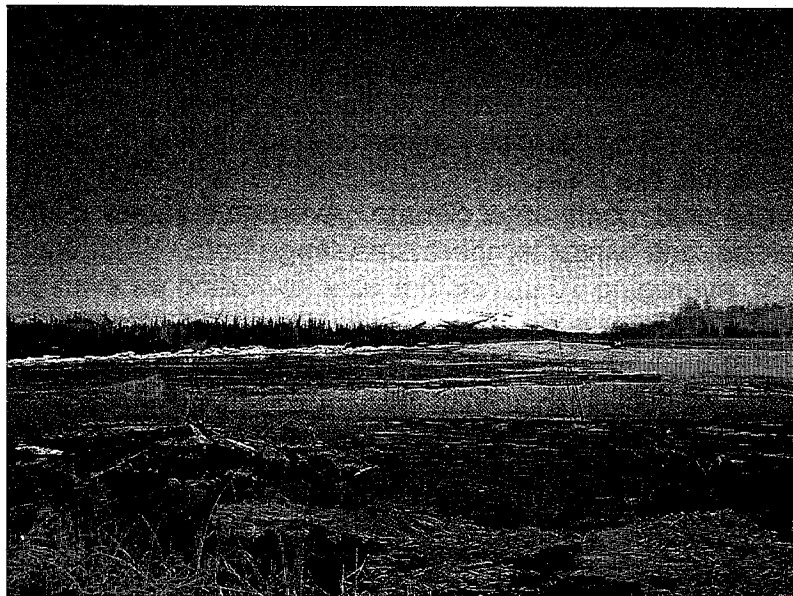
McGrath has a cold, continental climate. Average summer temperatures range from 62 to 80 degrees, and winter temperatures range from -64 to 0 degrees. Precipitation is light, averaging 10 inches per year, including an average snowfall of 86 inches. The Kuskokwim River is generally ice-free from mid-May through mid-October.



Lucille Magnuson, Community Health Representative.....*"I like the summer, the green grass, trees and berries in the fall."*



Downtown McGrath, Alaska-July 2002



High Water in McGrath-May 2002

Total Population and Age Distribution

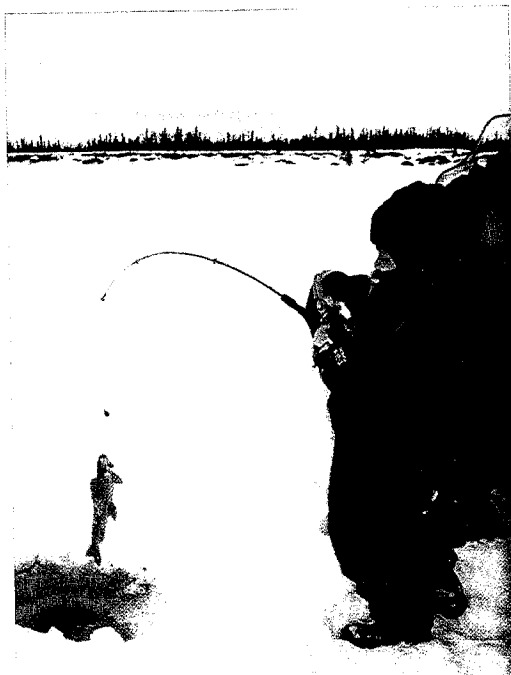
As of the 2000 US Census, McGrath has a total population of 401, a reduction from 528 in 1990. In 2000, 171 residents were White and 176 were Alaska Native, 54.6%. In 1990, 271 residents were White and 159 were Alaska Native, 47%. Currently, 205 residents are male and 196 are female. 124 are school-age children. 138 of the residents are between the ages of 35 and 54, so most adults are in their peak earning years and are completing the raising of their families. A high percentage of residents pursue vocational training after high school or are college-educated and hold advanced degrees such as a master's or doctorate. However, because there are no new jobs for high school graduates, young people leave the community for additional training or job opportunities elsewhere and don't return. Those that do remain in McGrath make do with subsistence lifestyles and part-time, seasonal work.

Transportation

There are no road connections to McGrath, but approximately 30 miles of local roads are used by ATV's, snowmachines, cars and trucks. Winter trails are marked to Nikolai (50 miles) and Takotna (20 miles). Residents rely on air service and barges to deliver cargo. Air facilities include a State-owned 5,435-foot paved runway with a 1,700-foot crosswind landing strip, and a seaplane base on the Kuskokwim River. There is no boat dock, though a boat launch ramp is available. The State is planning to install a pleasure craft dock in 2003 to assist with subsistence fishing. Connecting McGrath with a road to Ruby on the Yukon River is in the Transportation Plan of the Alaska Department of Transportation, and is a key element of future economic growth and development for the region surrounding McGrath.

Peninsula Airways and Hageland Aviation provide once-a-day service Monday through Saturday, round-trip to Anchorage. Most major medical concerns are referred to the Alaska Native Medical Center, Alaska Regional Hospital, or Providence Medical Center in Anchorage. Tanana Air provides charters to surrounding villages, and round-trip service to Fairbanks three days per week, where the headquarters of Doyon Corporation and Tanana Chiefs Conference are located. Privately-owned companies provide charters for services provided by the Iditarod Area School District, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Four Rivers Counseling, guide services, U.S. mail and cargo, private inter-village travel. Northern Air Cargo brings freight and supplies to McGrath three days per week. Various barge companies bring fuel, building materials, and other cargo and supplies up the Kuskokwim River to McGrath from June to September.

The Iditarod Trail transverses McGrath and is used by dog mushers and those on snowmachines. When the Kuskokwim River freezes, it becomes an "overland highway".



Kaelen Rosander, son of Tamara Vanderpool,
MNVC Tribal Administrator- ice fishing on the Kuskokwim River-2002

History and Culture

The first people of the McGrath area were Athabaskan Indians. Slightly more than half the population is Athabaskans, Yupik or Inupiaq Eskimos, or Aleuts. McGrath was a seasonal Upper Kuskokwim Athabaskan village used as a meeting and trading place where Big River, Nikolai, Telida and Lake Minchumina residents established fish camps. The traditional language spoken by the Athabaskans of this area was at one time known as Kolchan, but is now referred to as Upper Kuskokwim Athabaskan. Their first contact with the Europeans was in the 1830's when Russians established a trading post at Vinasale, which was a Kolchan fishing camp. By 1900 there was heavy contact with Europeans and Americans. The Old Town McGrath site was originally located across the river. In 1904 Abraham Appel established a trading post at the old site. In 1906 gold was discovered in the Innoko District, and at Gaines Creek in 1907. By 1907 a town was established, named for Peter McGrath, a local US marshall. When the surge of prospectors came into the country in 1900-1910, many Kolchan became mineworkers or worked at trading posts. This contact and the needs of miners, hunters and trappers migrating into the area caused the Athabaskans to settle permanent villages. In 1909, the Alaska Commercial Company opened a store. Family rights of trapping areas, the land, and economic values replaced band ownership. The Iditarod Trail also contributed to McGrath's role as a supply center. From 1911 to 1920, hundreds of people walked and mushed over the trail on their way to Ophir gold districts. Mining sharply declined after 1925. Movement between villages decreased by 1915. Introduction of the fish-wheel stressed the fish population. The repeating rifle depleted caribou by 1920. Air travel replaced winter trail networks. In the early 1930's there were only 50 Natives living in this region.

Because McGrath is the northernmost point on the Kuskokwim River accessible by large riverboats, it became a regional supply center. As a regional center, McGrath offers a variety of employment opportunities, but subsistence remains an important part

of the local culture. Hunting, fishing, trapping, mining and berry picking are integral to local lifestyle. After a major flood in 1933, changes in the course of the river eventually left the old site on a slough, and useless as a river stop. Some residents decided to move to the south bank of the river.

In 1937, the Alaska Commercial Company opened a store at the new location. In 1940, the FAA cleared an airstrip and built a communications complex, and a school was opened. McGrath became an important refueling stop during World War II, as part of the Lend-Lease Program between the U.S. and Russia. In 1964, a new high school was built, attracting boarding students from nearby villages. The City was incorporated as a Second Class city in 1975.

Since its peak in 1990, McGrath's population has declined due to reductions in staffing the FAA Flight Service Station and the US Weather Bureau, the declining price of gold and the subsequent closing of area mines. Declining job opportunities have initiated a downward economic spiral, resulting in residents leaving for jobs elsewhere to sustain their families. A study by the Denali Commission categorized McGrath as severely, economically depressed.

On the other hand, the McGrath area is rich in non-tangibles such as native culture, undeveloped and virgin land, nature, wildlife, and simple lifestyles. The people of McGrath are unique in relation to other Alaska villages in that they are not predominately Native nor non-Native. Because of this uniqueness, the people of McGrath have been able to share and respect cultural differences. Today McGrath exemplifies "unity in diversity" as its residents have learned to live, work and develop their economy, social, educational, cultural and personal facets of life into one interrelated community with a positive attitude for the future.

Governance

The City of McGrath, incorporated June 3, 1975 is a political subdivision of the state as a Second Class city, governed by a seven-member council who annually select a Mayor and a Vice Mayor. Council members serve on a volunteer basis, and are elected in staggered 3-year terms (2-3-2), annually on the first Tuesday in October. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month. City Staff include the City Administrator, the City Clerk-Treasurer, the Public Works Foreman, the Water Treatment Operator and an Operator-in-Training.

City Departments include:

Public Safety - headed by the Village Public Safety Officer employed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, with a liaison to the Regional Public Safety officer, an employee of the Alaska State Troopers. The head of the Public Safety Department serves as the Emergency Services Coordinator.

Public Works - headed by the Public Works Foreman, responsible for construction, management, maintenance and operation of the physical properties and equipment owned by the City, operation and maintenance of the City sewer and water systems, streets, public rights-of-way and sidewalks, and public lands, grounds, and buildings.

Volunteer Fire Department - the Fire Chief, appointed annually by the members of the volunteer fire department and approved by the Council, is the Village Public Safety Officer and the Assistant Chief is the Public Works Foreman.

Kuskokwim Valley Rescue Squad/McGrath Chapter – headed by a Squad Captain and a Co-Captain, elected by the members of the rescue squad with the approval of the Council.

Planning Commission – Established to constitute a department of the City. Comprised of five members who serve staggered terms chosen by lots, appointed by the Mayor for three years and confirmed by the Council. The Commission elects the Chairman, who is the head of the Department of Planning, and the Vice Chairman. The Commission meets every other month and performs planning functions, platting and land use, and acts as the authorized platting board for the city. Planning functions include development and submission of a comprehensive plan for the systematic and organized development of the community, a prioritized capital improvements plan reflecting short and long range development needs, an official city map, a subdivision ordinance, and an annual report on the availability of public lands and acquisition of lands. All formal actions of the Commission shall be by resolution.

City Committees include:

Administration and Finance Committee – Comprised of three to six members (no more than three Council members) who serve three-year terms, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The committee members elect the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually. The committee meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity to the Council to recommend policy and procedures and investigate complaints, submits a work plan establishing specific committee duties and responsibilities for Council approval, supervises transfer of city funds between all bank and fund accounts, and recommends investment decisions.

Public Safety – Comprised of three to six members (no more than three Council members) who serve three-year terms, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The committee elects the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually. The committee meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity to the Council to recommend policy and procedures and investigate complaints, and submits a workplan establishing specific committee duties and responsibilities for Council approval.

Public Works – Comprised of three to six members (no more than three Council members) who serve three-year terms, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The committee elects the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually. The committee meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity to the Council to recommend policy and procedures and investigate complaints, and submits a workplan establishing specific committee duties and responsibilities for Council approval.

Water Service – Comprised of five members (no more than two Council members) who serve staggered terms (one 1-yr, two 2-yr, two 3-yr), appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The committee elects the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually. The committee meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity to the Council to recommend policy and procedures and investigate complaints, and submits a workplan establishing specific committee duties and responsibilities for Council approval.

The McGrath Native Village Council (MNVC) is the elected governing body over the federally recognized tribe, the Native Village of McGrath. The 5-member Council is comprised of elected officer titles: First Chief, Second Chief, Third Chief, and Secretary/Treasurer. There are two and three year terms. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Four full-time positions comprise the office: Tribal Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Environmental Director, and Tribal Family Youth

Services Specialist. MNVC employs four part-time positions: Tribal Development Workforce Specialist, Elder's Nutrition Specialist, Transportation Planner, a janitor and a maintenance person. Seasonal positions include the Fisheries Technician.



The McGrath Native Village Council Mission Statement:

The McGrath Native Village Council exists for the benefit of their tribal members. Council and tribal members will work together to achieve those facets of life that enhance the lifestyle and health of all tribal members. We will strive to: empower our self-determination, self-governance and reinforce self-reliance; strengthen awareness of our heritage and cultural values, preserve our heritage to the best of our ability and resources; develop, encourage and protect a healthy community for current and future generations; improve our quality of life and self-sufficiency; create opportunities for our tribal members to become self-empowered and responsible for the wellness and safety of themselves and their community; work toward the success of the tribal members by providing education, training, information and options that best satisfy their needs; enrich the economic social and physical well-being of our tribal members.

The City and the McGrath Native Village Council collaboratively support the assignment of a VISTA/AmeriCorps member beginning August 2002 for one year. The VISTA member is involved with many community planning and grant projects.

Local Facilities, Utilities, Services and Accommodations

The City operates and maintains a water treatment plant, a piped water system that serves 174 of the 178 households, a sewer system that serves 34 residences and business in the town core, the solid waste landfill, the laundromat, the rock quarry, and approximately 30 miles of dirt and gravel roads. Some residences have individual wells and outhouses, and most residences have individual septic tanks. The City's water source is surface water from the Kuskokwim River, and is filtered, treated with polymers and chlorinated. The FAA operates its own water system. The majority of residents use individual septic tanks. Funds have been requested to expand the piped sewer system to serve 144 houses and businesses.

The electric utility is McGrath Light and Power, operated by the Village Corporation (MTNT, Ltd.), which provides electricity fired by diesel-fueled generators with a capacity of 2,145 kw. The utility maintains the city streetlights.

A private firm, McGrath Trash & Refuse, collects refuse for disposal at the City landfill.

Bulk Fuel tank owners are (number of tanks, total gallon capacity):

Yukon Fuel (16 – 325,000)

US Dept of Transportation/FAA Airway Facilities (2 – 42,000)

McGrath Church (1 – 2,000)

City of McGrath (4 – 42,000 + 1 – 5,000 gasoline)

McGrath Light & Power (5 – 225,000)

KSKO-AM Radio (2 – 10,000)

IASD (2 – 25,000 being abandoned)

Alaska Dept of Natural Resources/Div of Forestry (8 – 40,000)

Alaska Fish and Wildlife (1 – 2000, aviation fuel for use by Alaska State Troopers)

McGrath Native Village Council (1-2,000)

United Utilities, Incorporated provides telephone communications.

The Village Corporation, MTNT Ltd., owns McGrath's Internet service provider (ISP). McGrathAlaska.net (www.mcgrathalaska.net), operating since 1999 as a subsidiary of McGrath Light and Power, provides high-speed T-1 service, transferring data at a rate of 1.544 million bits per second (Mbps) to its "always-connected" wireless customer. This T-1 services is 42 times faster than dial-up connections. Subscribers include 69 residential (70% of family households) and 15 business/corporate wireless and dial-up customers, with service, speed and monthly fees envied by those in Alaska's largest cities. Rural Alaskan McGrath area residents can utilize Broadband Internet and its vast resources, placing them on an equal playing field with those living in urban areas. McGrathAlaska.net is collaborating with local resources to offer ongoing Internet empowerment visioning and training for students, individuals, businesses and agencies. Via McGrathAlaska.net the world's collective information and empowering resources are available to provide tools necessary for the development of sustainable communities embarking on social and economic development providing:

Unlimited self-directed and distance learning opportunities

E-commerce and Tele-work tools and resources

Local Eco-tourism development

Internet shopping and comparison pricing to reduce the cost of living for rural Alaskans

Resources for local economy and community sustainability

Several external private companies also provide independent wireless Internet service via satellite to McGrath residents, without local technical support or maintenance.



Mark Melton, AC General Manager and Son Emmitt, AC Office Manager....."I like the easy lifestyle!"

McGrath Broadcasting Company, the cable television service provider since 1983, feeds 32 channels and 2 movie channels to the community, with a capability of up to 80 channels. Service is wired to all households and currently has 109 subscribers. Channel 37 includes Alaska Regional Communications Satellite (ARCS). Channel 12 is set up as a cooperative project with the McGrath School to operate a KSKO-AM radio audio feed with public service announcements and local input; students regularly update the information. McGrath Broadcasting owns 3 satellite dishes. Future capability includes broadband service, video-on-demand, and Internet.

Health care, such as preventive care, prenatal care, immunizations, acute care, and first responder emergency care, is provided through the McGrath Health Clinic. Telemedicine and Teleradiology services are provided through data transmissions to both Fairbanks and Anchorage hospitals. Health care referrals are generated from the sub-regional villages of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, Telida, and Medfra. The Upper Kuskokwim Advisory Health Board (UKAHB) represents all the villages in the Kuskokwim Subregion. The Tanana Chiefs Conference employees operate services: Physician Assistant, Community Health Aide, Coordinator Instructor/Community Health Aide Practitioner, and Community Health Practitioner. A Clinic Director position will become part of the expanded service program with the construction of a new McGrath sub-regional health clinic, now in the design process. Itinerant dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, chiropractors, dentistry, advanced diagnostic medical services and hospitalization are provided by Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. The Health Clinic building is owned by the City of McGrath.

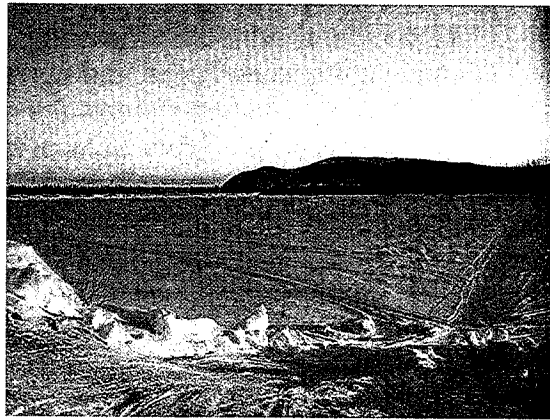
Four Rivers Counseling provides outpatient mental health, substance abuse counseling, and prevention education. They also provide a Rural Human Services program to train mental health aides in the villages, which includes McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Holy Cross, Grayling, Shageluk, and Anvik. Four Rivers employs two full-time and two part-time employees, and two contractors.

McGrath's Volunteer Fire Department consists of 16 firefighters. Several fire fighters have expressed an interest in becoming certified as Emergency Trauma Technicians (ETT). The City of McGrath owns and maintains the fire truck.

911 via radio summons the VPSO and the McGrath Health Clinic for emergency medical services. Three certified Emergency Medical Technicians, including one who is an EMT Instructor serve as emergency medical responders, who are volunteers of the Kuskokwim Valley Rescue Squad (KVRS). Two more individuals have nearly completed their EMT certification. KVRS owns and operates the ambulance, while the City of McGrath maintains it.

BJ's Café & Bunkhouse, Royal Falcon B&B, Caroline's Kitchen & Rooms, Hotel McGrath B&B, and Takusko House Lodge and Restaurant provide hotel and lodge accommodations.

The Iditarod Area School District (IASD) headquarters is based in McGrath, serving the villages of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Lake Minchumina, and Lime Village on the Kuskokwim River and the villages of Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, and Shageluk on the Yukon River. The McGrath School includes kindergarten through twelfth grade with approximately 85 students. It once peaked at approximately 130 students.



Kuskokwim River in winter

The University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Rural Alaska Interior Aleutians Campus, McGrath Center, has a computer lab and offers a variety of studies that include: workshops, seminars, certificates, and degree programs earned through distance learning. High school students can earn college credits before graduation.

The Interior Athabaskan Tribal College, based in Fairbanks, serves the Tanana Chiefs Conference region as well as other regions in Alaska. It offers workshops, seminars, certificates, and degree programs, but is more relative to rural village needs.

Economy

McGrath functions as a transportation, communications, and supply hub in Interior Alaska. It has a diverse cash economy, and many families rely upon subsistence. Salmon, moose, caribou, bear and rabbits are utilized. Residents trap, tend vegetable and herb gardens, pick berries, chop and sell firewood, raise and train sled dogs, and sell Native crafts. McGrath has several family-owned log and lumber milling businesses, private mineral extraction businesses, several lodges and bed and breakfasts, restaurants, several retail grocery and supply outlets. The Nixon Fork gold mine located 30 miles northeast of McGrath ceased operations in May 1999 due to low gold prices. 45 year-round employees were laid off, and 2 caretakers remain on the property. In May 2003 the Gold Mine started mining again when the gold prices rose. The FAA Flight Services Station was reduced to one employee, and the US Weather Bureau has only 3 employees as remote technology replaced on-site employees. Yet local, state, and federal government jobs provide more than half the employment in McGrath. The Iditarod Area School District headquarters is a major cornerstone of the regional economy. In the summer, the McGrath-based DNR/Division of Forestry Interior fire fighting camp temporarily employs as many as 200 area residents, and brings in another 200 regional firefighters.

Critical Issues

- ✦ Critical issues to McGrath residents and its future are:
- ✦ Flood mitigation and streambank erosion

- # Water source, and water treatment compliant with current regulations
- # Lack of jobs, for adults and young residents
- # Outflow of young population and aging of resident population
- # No independent or sustaining source of revenue to maintain existing municipal services
- # No road connecting McGrath to Ruby, Anchorage and/or Fairbanks
- # Lack of medical care for all (medical services available for Native Alaskans)
- # Lack of medical care that includes a physician, dentist, dental hygienist
- # Lack of veterinary care
- # High cost of living (electricity, fuel, food, travel and transportation)
- # Limited educational and training opportunities and resources for students and adults
- # Loss of Native culture and heritage

Description of the Community - The People

(U.S. Census 2000, certified in 2001 by DCED)

Demographic Item	1990	2000	2002
Total current population	528	401	
Number of Alaska Native Residents	248	176	
Number of White Residents	271	171	
Number of Residents under Age 18		156	
Number of Residents over Age 60		30	
Infant Birth and Death Rate			
Number of McGrath Students in Elementary School			56
Number of McGrath Students in High School			29
Number of Total McGrath Students	185		87
Total IASD Students in Elementary School	405	377	227
Total IASD Students in High School	240	207	200
Total IASD Students	645	584	427

Population History:

- # 0
- # 0
- # 0
- # 0
- # 90
- # 112
- # 138
- # 175
- # 241
- # 279
- # 355
- # 528
- # 401

Information shared by the McGrath Health clinic regarding major community health problems:

Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, inhalants, etc.)

Domestic violence

Accidents, majority related to substance abuse

Communicable diseases (colds, flu, bronchitis, strep throat, etc.)

Respiratory problems in summer due to dusty roads and surrounding forest fires

Description of the Community Education, Jobs, and Income

Work force employment statistics:

- ✦ Number of full-time jobs: 206
- ✦ Number of part-time jobs: 25
- ✦ Number of seasonal jobs: approx. 200 (summer, DNR/Div of Forestry, Mining)
- ✦ Total work force (age 16+): 286
- ✦ Number of people looking for work: 24, 10.4% Unemployed
- ✦ Number of adults not in labor force, not seeking work: 56, 28.0%
- ✦ Number of families on public assistance: 41, 9.8%
- ✦ Median household income: \$43,056
- ✦ Per capita income: \$21,553

Educational statistics (IASD):

Number of McGrath high school graduates last year (2001-2002): 9

Number of IASD high school graduates last year: 23

Number of students who went to college last year: 3

Number of students who went to trade school last year: 2

Jobs available for high school graduates:

None, except part-time or seasonal work when available.

Types of educational programs that exist in McGrath:

University of Alaska – Fairbanks, Interior Aleutians Campus, McGrath site:

Graduate, Undergraduate, Vocational, Technical, Adult Education classes, Distance Learning classes

Tanana Chiefs Conference: Vocational and Technical training for facility and infrastructure support (staff includes a part-time Work Force Development Coordinator)

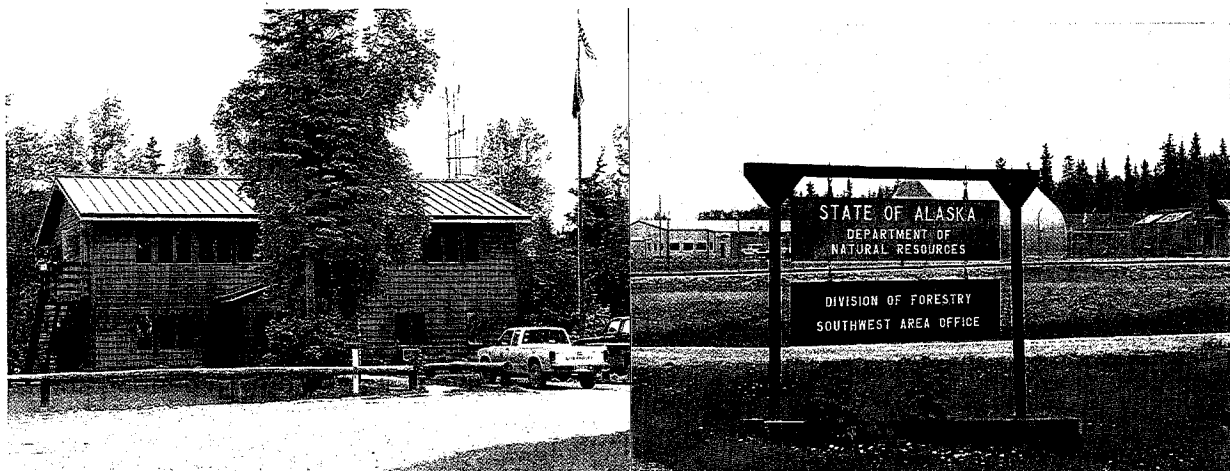
McGrath Native Village Council: training funded by particular grants for MNVC work projects

City of McGrath: training funded by TCC or particular grants for facility and infrastructure repair and maintenance

List of employers in the McGrath community and the number of people employed by each. Employee numbers reflect both full-time and part-time positions. Many residents work for more than one employer, and some individuals simultaneously operate more than one business.

Employer	Employees
Airline Services, dba Northern Air Cargo and Tanana Air (freight)	3
Alaska Commercial Company	7
Alaska, DOT Airport Management	2
Alaska, DNR/Div of Forestry	
Alaska, Division of Family and Youth Services	2
Alaska, Fish and Game	2
Alaska, Fish and Wildlife Protection, AST	1
Alaska, Magistrate	2 Itinerant
Alaska, State Troopers, RPSO and VPSO	2
Andrews, Ephrem - Snowplowing and Toyostove Service	1
BJ's Café and Bunkhouse	2
Barb the Baker and Seamstress (includes sewing furs)	1
Bering Sea Fence	2
Boardwalk Espresso	1
Candle Creek Mine	
Caroline's Kitchen and Rooms	1
City of McGrath	5
Coyle's Logs and Lumber	1
East Coast Construction	1 - 4
Enterprise Flying	1
Four Rivers Counseling	4
General Services	1
Hotel McGrath Bed and Breakfast	1 - 3
Iditarod Area School District	70
Joaquin Investments	1
Joaquin Milling and Supply	2
Joe's Bar	1-2
KSKO Radio	5
Magnuson Air	4
Magnuson and Sons Guide Service	2
Malone's Mossy Meadows Pet Haven	2
McGrathAlaska.net	2
McGrath Broadcasting Company Cable TV	3
McGrath Community School Library	1-2
McGrath Health Clinic	5
McGrath Light and Power	8
McGrath Native Village Council	8
McGrath School	30
McGrath Trash and Refuse	2
McGrath Veterinary Clinic	2 Itinerant
McGuire's Tavern	2-4
MTNT, Ltd.	3
Nelodeyoo Gift Shop	1
Northern Air Cargo, dba Airline Services	3
Pay Dirt Excavation and Construction	2
Payne, Bob - Snowplowing	1

Peninsula Air	11
Redline Air Charters	1
Rosander Mining	3
Royal Falcon Bed and Breakfast	2
Shoppe, The	1-2
Takusko House Lodge	5-10
Tanana Air Service	4
Tanana Chiefs Conference	3
Tom's Garage	1
U.S., FAA Airway Facilities	1
U.S., Innoko National Wildlife Refuge	8+Seasonal
U.S. National Weather Service, NOAA	5
U.S. Postal Service	2
Univ of Alaska/Fairbanks, Interior Aleutians Campus, McGrath Ctr	2
United Utilities	1
Whitmire Game Processing	2 Seasonal
Whitworth, Carl - Snowplowing	1
Woolard Services	1
Yukon Fuel	4



State of Alaska-Department of Natural Resources-Southwest Area Office, McGrath

Description of the Community – The Place

1. McGrath is an Alaska Native townsite, and the community has been surveyed.
2. The major landowners in the community are:
 - ✦ MTNT, the Village Corporation
 - ✦ The City of McGrath
 - ✦ Alaska Village Initiatives
 - ✦ The State of Alaska
 - ✦ The U.S. Government: Bureau of Land Management, DOT/FAA
 - ✦ Private citizens and investors

3. The land entitlement of the McGrath ANCSA Corporation: 92,160 acres
4. The 14(c) reconveyance process has been completed.
5. There are special local issues (land trades, Native allotments)
6. The community is located on the shores of, and is nearly surrounded by, the Kuskokwim River. The river floods annually, caused by ice jams during break-up at a tight meander bend in the Kuskokwim River approximately 3.5 miles downstream from McGrath and a sandbar on the east bank about 0.3 miles upstream from this meander bend. Jams may back up the ice for several miles. The entire town is in the flood plain, but the most frequent flooding occurs along the northeasterly edge of town along Takotna Road and across town near the ballpark and the southernmost end of the airport runway. Ice-jam floods may cause several times more damage than ice-free, open-water floods because of movement of large ice volumes and the extreme velocities that result when ice-jams release water. The 100-year flood stage at McGrath is 337.3 feet. The last flood was May 2002
7. The community suffers a severe riverbank erosion problem, caused by ice jams and flooding during break-up. Between 1951 and 1984, riverbank erosion caused an average land loss of five feet per year, and up to 10 feet in some locations. Since 1984, land losses between 15 and 20 feet annually have been reported. 22 residential properties and one road along riverfront land have disappeared. Bank erosion near the City offices and water treatment plant building experiences 2-4 feet per year, and have eroded to within 90 feet of the building. The City has been forced to abandon still another road, construct a replacement which is currently being undercut by the river, and relocate its river water intake facility which serves the community water system. Furthermore, the current rate of erosion is rapidly diminishing the quantity of riverbank property required for placement of the erosion control revetment on the riverbank itself.

With the highest concentration of persons and real property located along the project area, McGrath cannot further withstand such dramatic losses. Without erosion control, projected economic losses are estimated to exceed twenty million dollars of not only private property, but also property owned by the local, state, and federal governments. Still further, to relocate the McGrath community would cost in excess of \$12 million dollars (1980 figures). Since then, millions of dollars in townsite area improvements have taken place, including McGrath airport improvements, a new HUD housing project, a community water and sewer system, and substantial private construction projects.

8. The community water source is the Kuskokwim River, and the severe streambank erosion endangers the intake location. A test well was drilled in October 2002, but that, too, is in a located along the river subject to streambank erosion and flooding. A Water and Sewer System Evaluation and Master Plan was completed in 2003, and recommends
 - ✦ Construction of a new water treatment plant
 - ✦ New water pressurization and circulation system, and new water distribution manifold within the plant building

- ✦ New lagoon aeration system with blower house and valve vault upgrades
 - ✦ Installation of isolation valves in the Tu-pipe water distribution system
 - ✦ Waste heat improvements downtown, and boiler and heat exchanger improvements in the plant building
 - ✦ STEP system isolation valves
 - ✦ STEP system replacement of pumps and steel tanks
 - ✦ Construction of a vertical river intake structure - Sink vertical screened steel shafts or drill large diameter wells at the intake location to deliver low turbidity raw water to the water treatment plant.
9. The community gets its limestone from the Noir Hill Quarry site, owned by MTNT with subsurface rights owned by Doyon, Ltd., about 15 miles east of the village. The City owns and maintains the road to the quarry.
10. Contaminated sites in the McGrath community:
- ✦ 1997 5,000 gallon fuel oil spill beneath the Captain Snow Building, location of the city offices, health clinic, Laundromat, and water treatment plant. This prompted an emergency grant to build a new tank farm which was completed in 1998
 - ✦ 1995 FAA DOT PF, stock-piled dirt
 - ✦ 1999 DOT PF Fuel oil and contaminated soil when underground tank was removed
 - ✦ GTE unknown, soil contamination possible
 - ✦ Sterling landing AFB tank farm for Tatalina AFB, where drums were removed from 2 landfills, and other debris was cleaned up
 - ✦ Military barrels buried at the south end of the airport runway (not confirmed)
 - ✦ 25 military barrels behind cemetery
 - ✦ Suspected military barrels still on the Walseth AFB site, where 217 drums were moved from 7 sites
 - ✦ White substance found at Ssite 6, barrel "93, at the Old Town dump
 - ✦ KSKO Transmitter site, dirt stockpiled on plastic, from a 1998 500-gallon gasoline spill
 - ✦ AVI Biocells: fencing, liner, signs, berms need to be removed and sites restored to original landscape; soil remediation completed for 3 biocells
 - ✦ FAA old tank farm site: Drums and miscellaneous material in dike, and only diked on 3 sides.
 - ✦ FAA dirt removed from Old FAA tank area, contaminated, stockpiled in biocell near DOTPF.
 - ✦ Fuel leaks at the old fuel tank farm at McGrath Light and Power. Expansion of the tank farm in 2002 included additional containment and achieving compliance with regulations.
11. There are two old landfills which were located at the end of the DNR road near Sand Island, and also at the AC slip. At one time in its history, trash was thrown over the riverbank. The current landfill is located east of town on Cranberry Ridge Road.
12. The McGrath Native Village Council hired an Environmental Director in November 2002.

13. The community currently does not have an environmental plan, though several environmental studies have been conducted. The Environmental Director hired by the MNVC will develop such a plan.
14. The Army Corps of Engineers commissioned an environmental impact study for its flood control/streambank erosion project projected for construction during 2003. It is attached.



Building structure at Old McGrath

Community Vision and Values

Community Vision Statement

We see a community governed by an active City and Tribal Council cooperatively focused on development for residents and visitors; a community working on solutions to high energy costs, erosion control, bad roads, high unemployment and poor training opportunities; a community that offers quality education from preschool through post-secondary and trade school; a community that expresses a reason for our children to return or to stay and raise their families.

Community Values

An assessment of community talents, skills, and interests was completed during the summer of 2002. 173 surveys were mailed out with the water utility bills, and 20% were returned. The survey is considered reliable since demographics of the survey responders paralleled the community demographics, and there was a high incidence of surveys returned. Most of the responders were between the ages of 41-55 years, the same median age group of the community. Females responded by a higher ratio of 2:1 to males. Also interesting is that 25% of the responders had lived in McGrath 21-30 years, and 20% of responders had moved to McGrath less than 3 years ago. The survey was also distributed to students over the age of 14 at the Teen Center, which resulted in very insightful responses from the upcoming generation. The McGrath

School will carry on further community assessments and surveys as its Community Service project. Significantly, the reason most residents considered leaving McGrath was a lack of job opportunities, followed equally by the expensive cost-of-living and lack of health care services. Also interesting is that of the 25% of responders who hadn't considered leaving McGrath, 80% of them had moved here from the Outside. The listing of job skills and learning experiences of the responders was phenomenal, comprising a 2-page table. McGrath has a wealth of untapped potential human resources, and most would be willing to share their skills with others and/or serve on committees to plan and implement community projects.

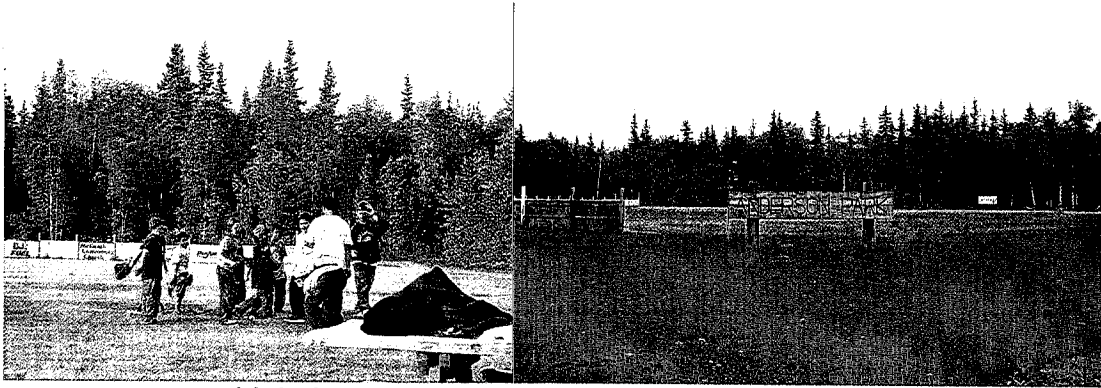
Listed below are the community's 10 most important values, the first five in ranking order:

- 1) Kind and caring people
- 2) Remote rural country, beauty, close to Nature
- 3) Lifestyle and freedoms
- 4) Family values, good place to raise children
- 5) Safe environment, peaceful
- 6) Recreational opportunities
- 7) Semi-subsistence living
- 8) Multi-cultural social diversity
- 9) Amenities usually available only in larger cities
- 10) Isolation, Live-and-let-live attitude

Community residents were assessed why they settled in McGrath, and why they chose to remain. Some comments received are:

- ✦ This is my home; I was born and raised here.
- ✦ My kids are here.
- ✦ I enjoy the slower paced lifestyle.
- ✦ I like being close to Nature.
- ✦ I like the rural environment and small community living.
- ✦ The outdoor recreation is great. [hunting, fishing, camping, winter/summer sports]
- ✦ McGrath is a great place to raise a family.
- ✦ People know each other and help one another.
- ✦ McGrath has a diverse community atmosphere, and has established respect for, cooperation with, and unity of the various ethnic backgrounds, cultures and values.
- ✦ We have the freedom and ability to live off the land.
- ✦ McGrath is a blend of the "real" Alaska with modern conveniences and amenities.

Overall, the three most important issues for McGrath are **Economic Development, Education, and Infrastructure Development**. The community reached the conclusion that those three issues if successfully addressed, would provide for employment/jobs, growth in population, and a reduced cost-of-living. Infrastructure development is necessary to provide jobs and sustain economic development and population growth.



Little League Practice at Anderson Park 6/03

Economic Development

Any economic development venture must be sustainable and consistent with maintaining or enhancing the local environment and culture. Eco-tourism was listed as the dominant priority listed under economic development, followed by promotion of local resource industries (water, rock, timber, agriculture, mining, land, etc.). There is a need for services such as a banking outlet, beauty/barber shop, restaurants that keep regular business hours, auto repair, a print shop, etc.) Opportunities for entertainment, especially for kids, ranked as a priority. In fact, for the first time in its history, McGrath residents favored levying a tax, overwhelmingly favoring an advisory vote in October 2002 to levy a hotel/motel bed tax.

Eco-tourism development encompasses the following community interests:

- # Adventure hiking and bicycling
- # Development of trails and trail patches for ATV, snowmachine, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, etc.
- # Kayak and canoe trips up the Takotna or Kuskokwim Rivers
- # Outdoor education and survival workshops
- # An improved boat launch facility
- # Frisbee golf course
- # Rock climbing
- # Guide service for hunting, fishing, trophy registration and competition
- # Northern Lights viewing
- # Volunteers for research projects in cooperation with the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
- # Expand bear safety/gun qualification clinics and small plane/helicopter aviation safety to outsiders and tourists
- # Nature and wildlife identification walks and workshops
- # Use of DNR/Division of Forestry cabins and sauna from September to April
- # Native art, culture, music, crafts, hunting/fishing skills, storytelling, dance, etc. workshops
- # Photography workshops
- # Mining and panning for gold
- # Log-home building
- # Historical museum
- # Visitor Center with sales of crafts and souvenirs

- ✦ Music festivals, jam sessions
- ✦ Spiritual retreats

Of serious concern is the ability to maintain current government jobs and services established in McGrath. Such jobs provide for a respectable income and benefits for the wage earner, while the offices of government services enhance community quality of life and establish this community as a regional hub rather than an end-of-the-line village.



Education and Training

The community values a curriculum enriched with moral education and cultural values. McGrath wants to provide increased educational and training alternatives for students, and considers locating a regional high school here. Responses to the survey suggested more on-the-job training and internships. Also expressed was the need to train and hire local qualified residents for teaching positions.

The most popular training need was related to computer training, computer technical support and software skills, which was critical to employment and jobs. Other training needs sought:

- ✦ Heavy equipment operators
- ✦ Auto mechanics
- ✦ Health Aides and Certified Nursing Assistant
- ✦ Emergency Medical Technician certification
- ✦ Small engine repair and maintenance
- ✦ Private and Commercial pilot license training
- ✦ Natural, holistic health; traditional healing methods
- ✦ Native arts, culture, history, music, dance
- ✦ Home maintenance for arctic climates
- ✦ Locksmithing
- ✦ Music lessons
- ✦ Off-road vehicle safety training
- ✦ Rural economic development
- ✦ Natural resource development
- ✦ Gun safety, concealed weapon training, target shooting
- ✦ Outdoor sports and recreation activities
- ✦ Taxidermy
- ✦ Veterinary technician



Noel Gould, MNVC Environmental Director and MTNT General Manager
Donne Fleagle.....*"I like the small town atmosphere and conveniences, such as no lines"*

Infrastructure Development

First and foremost in the minds of the survey responders is the imminent critical problem of Kuskokwim River flood mitigation and stream bank erosion protection. The river has eroded in many cases more than 20 feet of land annually, and in many places has eroded away 22 residences and other roads. The Army Corps of Engineers proposed 2800 feet of riverbank protection, but the funding available now has reduced this project to a mere 300-700 feet, primarily as protection of the City's water intake area. An earlier stage of this project funded the construction of the 15-mile City-owned road to the rock quarry, owned by MTNT, the riprap source for this project. A test well was drilled in October 2002 as an alternate community water source, that location is not in the Army Corps of Engineers project. This project is scheduled for construction in 2003.

Second, because McGrath roads consist of alluvial dirt and sand, there is a constant dust control problem all summer which causes respiratory distress and mud conditions in spring and fall. In 2002 the Village Council secured a grant to construct hard-surface roads for a section of the main roads, a project that is scheduled for construction in 2004 or 2005. The Village and the City would like to coordinate this project with the Army Corps of Engineers streambank erosion/flood mitigation project.

Third, is a "road to anywhere", though the road to Ruby and the Yukon River is of the highest priority to McGrath residents. The ability to procure supplies by barge and truck them into McGrath will reduce freight costs and will provide a cost-effective transportation artery for inter-village commerce, while reducing the isolation of families from each other.

Fourth, there is little or no village- and city-owned land available for economic development and facility construction. The City is seeking a means to transfer 3 lots from the BLM for a new water treatment plant, and the village and city are cooperatively proposing purchase of a 16-acre tract for future development, which may include a historical museum, a new radio station, the new sub-regional health clinic, a community center, a new rural education/UAF site, etc. Additional projects needed include a visitor center and a day care center. Support of this growth mandates expansion of water and wastewater treatment piping and facilities. The community is considering partnering with the Alaska Village Initiatives "Private Lands Wildlife Management" program.

Fifth, in order to comply with current and impending Department of Economic Conservation and EPA regulations, the City must consider an alternate water source, and correspondingly a new water treatment plant. A successful test well was drilled

October 2002. Another considered alternative to the well is to install an infiltration gallery at the river intake area, but, though an improvement on the current system, will not result in future compliance. The current water treatment plant and water distribution system is a one-of-a-kind in Alaska. The difficulty lies in leak detection. The tu-pipe distribution system is unique to the world, not just Alaska. Leaks at the pipe joints have cost the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost treated water. The City raised its water utility fees in order to pay back the dollars borrowed from other account reserve funds, but cannot financially absorb another such loss. The sewer lagoon, located adjacent to the DNR/Div of Forestry fire-fighting camp, has an insufficient aeration system that must be replaced to cure the annoying and sickening fumes. The 200-400 people employed each summer at the DNR constantly and consistently complain the smell is unbearable, and toxic.

City equipment and vehicles are a couple of decades old, and parts are unavailable in some cases. The City does not own proper equipment for maintaining hard-surfaced roads, nor to sand roads and lots for dangerous, icy conditions. Appropriate heavy equipment would assist the City in providing local resources for projects, and to offer "in-kind" assistance for grants.

The University of Alaska/Fairbanks has funded a project to build a historical museum in McGrath. Presently the local McGrath Interior campus is locating a reasonable site, in cooperation with the Village and the City. The project is expected to be completed in 2003, and will offer public tours of displays and artifacts demonstrating regional history, Native heritage and culture, and natural resource development.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Native Village Council are completing the design of the new McGrath sub-regional health clinic. Site control is the current issue. The project is anticipated to start construction in 2003 or 2004. A new source of funding has been secured to provide health and medical services for all McGrath residents without limitation to Native heritage. McGrath now has telemedicine and teleradiology services, linking diagnostic tests and exams to doctors in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

McGrathAlaska.net is pursuing local and regional E-commerce development through its broadband wireless network. McGrath will soon become a demonstration project, and subsequently a successful model for future rural E-commerce development projects.

KSKO-AM radio station based in McGrath is seeking a site to construct a new building, including residential quarters for employees. A new General Manager came on board in early 2002, and their spring fund drive was the most successful in its history. Programming changes reflect the desires of the community, and the numbers of those listening throughout the region has increased substantially.

Goals and Measures of Success

Value	Goal	Measure of Success
Kind and caring people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community that supports and respects all cultures, traditions, religions, and Elders and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular community meetings and potlucks (e.g. Breakfast Club, card and game nights, library/book reading club, evening and weekend get-togethers based upon an event or common purpose)

	youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native-sponsored, community cultural awareness program • UAF historical museum project to preserve Native traditions and regional history • Meal and nutrition program for elders • Establish a fraternal organization (e.g. Lion's Club) for community service projects • Community support for the Teen Center and youth activities • Community ecumenical meetings and services among diverse faiths • Support local businesses ("Buy McGrath", participate in "Buy Alaska") • Active cooperation, involvement and mutual support among the Iditarod Area School District, the City, the Native Village Council, and the Tanana Chiefs Council
Remote, rural, beauty, close to Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that believes in maintaining its natural beauty and eco-system • A community that wants to develop low-impact eco-tourism • Expand Innoko National Wildlife Refuge summer research program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop alternative local fuel sources (peat, wood pellets, solar, waste-oil, waste-heat, etc.) • Promote agriculture, flower/vegetable/herb gardening, greenhouse operations • Improve management of solid waste • Clean up contaminated military sites and address other hazardous material issues to restore a clean, healthy, and safe environment • Develop a community recycling program • Develop a community compost pile • Implement a community beautification program (trees, landscaping, boardwalks, parks, benches, litter control, painted businesses/store fronts, community band gazebo, outdoor stage, etc.) through grants and labor/materials supplied by local volunteer groups

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and expand local guide services and businesses to serve eco-tourism • Develop and promote tourist packages and programs • Attract tourists to volunteer to work on research and study programs (patterned after "Earthwatch" programs) • Partner with Alaska Village Initiatives in their Private Lands Wildlife Management program • Partner with USDA Nature Resources Conservation Services in wildlife habitat restoration, especially in the Vinasale Fire burn area
Lifestyle and freedoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that supports non-invasive regulations • A community that promotes safe, adequate, affordable housing • A community that is logistically connected to products and services • Flood mitigation and erosion control • A community that supports an independent and self-sustaining lifestyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local revenue resources for a sustainable economy (e.g. hotel/bed tax, sales tax, alcohol tax, dog tag fee, etc.) • Build 4 new Senior housing units • City participation in the National Flood Insurance Program • Completion of McGrath connection to road to Ruby on the Yukon River • Implementation of Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA projects, together with other sources of supplemental funding, to protect the entire 2800 feet of Kuskokwim River streambank erosion and flood mitigation • Local laws and animal control that does not inhibit the raising and training of sled dogs, pets, and animals for processing or retail purposes
Family values, raising children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that supports its heritage and culture, and family priorities • A community that promotes jobs, training, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide expanded opportunities for children to learn practical applications, life training, and set the stage for their future • Develop E-commerce and provide training for its implementation • Establish a clearing house on a

	and life opportunities for all, especially children	<p>website for sales of Native arts/crafts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance community website with City and Tribal links, promoting McGrath and defining its image • Provide training for local residents so they can work on local economic development and public works projects • Student participation in Village and City Council and committee meetings • Multi-generational, including students, participation in community economic development and community projects
Safe, healthy and peaceful environment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that supports emergency services • A community that insists on adequate health care for all • Safe drinking water and sewer system • A community that promotes sobriety • Dust control or paving of local roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 each, full-time VPSO and RPSO • Secure equipment and training grants through Homeland Security initiative • Regular monthly and specific training for volunteer fire department • EMT training • Establish a teen EMT/paramedic study program • A new ambulance • A defibrillator for the clinic and KQRS • A new sub-regional health clinic staffed with a clinic director • A new water treatment plant and wastewater systems sufficient to serve the entire community and provide drinking water that meets state and federal regulations • Regular meetings about sobriety and domestic violence awareness • Construction of the hard-surfaced roads project sponsored by the Native Village Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs
Recreational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing, hunting • Boating, canoeing, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New boat launch and landing for recreational boating and fishing • Marked trails; trail patches

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kayaking • ATV, snowmachine, bicycle, and nature trails • Recreational mining experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of village-to-village trails, sport activities, trail patches • Pedestrian/walking/jogging trails
Semi-subsistence living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good hunting, fishing and berry grounds • Maintenance of natural plants and herbs for alternative medicine and traditional practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase village and city ownership of community lands • Local laws that protect subsistence resources • New water treatment plant to provide discharge of backwash into the Kuskokwim River that meets state and federal regulations and will not harm fish or humans • Predator control to restore moose population • Teaching subsistence skills to children • Offer classes in identification and preservation of native plants, and natural and traditional healing workshops
Multi-cultural social diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that appreciates and promotes diverse cultural heritages • Promotion of local arts, crafts, music, dance, language, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Elders Programs • Sharing of diverse cultural heritages and traditions with Youth and Elders Program • Establish arts/crafts workshops, shows and displays • Establish and schedule music and dance festivals
Amenities shared with larger cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower cost of living • Cable TV • Broadband, wireless Internet • Regional cultural and economic focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower fuel costs • Lower electricity costs • Lower air travel costs • Lower food costs • Lower freight/shipping costs • Expanded cable TV services • Broadcast local meetings, sports and cultural activities • Community web-page • Develop local and regional E-commerce • Borough feasibility study • Broadband, wireless Internet

		service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A road to connect McGrath with villages on the Yukon (e.g. Ruby), and eventually to Fairbanks
Isolation, live-and-let live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community that respects individual ideas and philosophies relating to independence, self-reliance, and non-conformity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assimilating and accepting diverse personalities and philosophies, continued respect for individual freedoms and lifestyles, and not requiring conformity • Attraction and support of homesteaders • Attraction and support of retired professionals for a symbiotic community relationship • Debate and discussion which leads to issue resolution through a consultation process, that ultimately results in a solution supported by consensus • Modification of local laws to allow personal freedoms that do not infringe on community health and safety.

Key to Community Map

Place	Importance
A. U.S. Weather Service (NOAA)	Pilot weather information
B. BJ's Cafe	Home-cooked food; former terminal building
C. McGuire's Bar	Local gathering place
D. Hotel McGrath Bed & Breakfast	Oldest building in McGrath still in use
E. Alaska Commercial Company	Groceries and general store
F. MTNT, Ltd	McGrath-Takotna-Nikolai-Telida Village Corp
G. Roadhouse	Local gathering place
H. McGrath Light & Power	MTNT-owned local electric utility
I. Innoko National Wildlife Refuge	HQ
J. Assembly of God Church	
K. Iditarod Trail Race HQ	Major checkpoint, race transportation hub
L. Catholic Church	

M. Chamai Building	McGrath Native Village Council, TCC Offices, DFYS offices and State Fish and Game offices.
N. Cemetery	
O. Alaska DOT/Airport Facility Maintenance	
P. Iditarod Area School District	HQ for REAA
Q. Shoppe, The	General store, groceries, gifts, video rentals; eclectic wares
R. McGrath School	Grades K-12
S. DNR/Div of Forestry	Interior regional fire-fighting camp
T. General Services	
U. U.S. Postal Services	
V. Old McGrath Townsite	Abandoned by last family, 1952
W. Captain Snow Building	City offices, Health clinic, Laundromat, Water treatment plant; Namesake for Kuskokwim Riverboat Captain and long-time family resident
X. Takusko House Lodge	Excellent dining cuisine and accommodations in a lodge setting
Y. Anderson Park	Baseball field, bleachers, community summer gathering place
Z. Log Haul Out	Barge landing, load and unload logs for local timber milling industry
1. Communications Satellite	
2. Landfill	Solid waste disposal; vehicle/appliance salvage area
Add 3. Sewer Lagoon	
Add 4. Site of Test Well	
Add 5. Bulk Tank Farm	Diesel and aviation fuel
Add 6. City water tank storage	Community storage of treated water
Add 7. City fuel tank storage	City storage of gasoline and diesel fuel to operate boilers in water treatment plant, heat CSB and water storage tanks
Add 8. City water intake location	Community water source
Add 9. Recreational boat launch area	
Add 10. Alternate barge landing area	
Add 11. Barge landing at Fuel pipeline terminal	

Not pictured on map – beyond the scope:

- ✱ KSKO – AM generator station
- ✱ Emergency landing strip
- ✱ Shooting range
- ✱ Noir Hill rock quarry
- ✱ Sand Island

- # Good berry picking locations
- # Views of Mt. Denali and the Alaska Range
- # Juncture of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers



"What do you like about McGrath?"

...."How people pull together to help those in need."

*-Naomi Norback, Administrative Assistant
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.-McGrath Subregional Office.*



Capital Projects and Infrastructure Assessment

Capital Project/Infrastructure	Do you have it?	What is the condition?	Is there enough?	Do you need it?
Airport	Yes	Good	Yes – expansion in 2001	Yes
Boardwalks	Yes	Poor	No	Yes
Bulk Fuel Storage	Yes	Good	Yes- renovated and expanded in 2002	Yes
Cable TV	Yes	Good	Yes	Yes
Cemeteries and Graves	Yes	Average	Yes	Yes
City Council Building	Yes	Poor to Average	No	Yes
Community Hall	No	N/A	No – use the School or the City Council Building	Yes
Dock Facilities	No	N/A	No - need barge landing, recreational boat landing	Yes
Elder Housing	Yes	Poor	No	Yes
Electric Power	Yes	Good	Yes – too expensive	Yes
Fire Station	No	N/A	No – have garage for the fire truck; no place for firefighting equipment and meeting place	Yes
Harbor – small boats	No	N/A	No	No

Health Clinic	Yes	Poor to Average	No	Yes
Housing	Yes	Poor to Good	No	Yes
Internet Service	Yes	Good	Yes, but not all have converted to wireless Internet and still have dial-up service	Yes
Library	Yes	Average	No – use space in the IASD HQ building	Yes
Police Building	No	Poor to Average	No – use space in the City Council Building	Yes
Post Office	Yes	Good	Yes – counter hours insufficient and inconvenient to community	Yes
Recreation (parks)	Yes	Average	No	Yes
Roads	Yes	Poor	No	Yes
Schools	Yes	Poor to Good	No – need maintenance and improvements	Yes
Sewage collection and disposal	Yes	Poor	No – sewer lagoon aeration system is insufficient and affects air quality	Yes
Solid waste disposal	Yes	Average	No - need to reduce and recycle, manage hazardous materials, and consider an incinerator with regular burning hours	Yes
Telephone	Yes	Good	No – need cellular satellite service	Yes
Tribal Council Building	Yes	Good	No – need more space	Yes
Washeteria	Yes	Good	No – need more washers, dryers, and remodeling and repairs of the public rest rooms and showers	Yes
Water Service	Yes	Poor to Average	No – most households have running water. Need a new water treatment plant to meet state and federal regulations	Yes
Youth Center	Yes	Poor	No – need facility improvements and program funding	Yes

Social, Health, and Cultural Services Assessment

Category	Type of Program/Service	Do you have this service?	Does the service need to be improved?
----------	-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Health	Nutrition	Yes, for Elders	Full staffing
	Weight loss	?	
	AIDS prevention	Yes	Yes
	Substance abuse	Yes	Yes, regular meetings & Al-Anon
	Family planning	Yes	
Public Safety	Police protection	Yes	No, VPSO & RPSO services
	Fire protection	Yes	Yes, training & equipment
	Emergency response	Yes	Yes, coordination among responders, communication
	Search & rescue	Yes	Yes, communication & equipment
Recreation Programs	Small children	Yes, school-related	Yes, need adult/teen participation and leadership; playground equipment removed for liability issues
	Teens	Yes, school-related	Yes, need adult participation and leadership; want a movie theater, bowling alley, swimming pool
	Adults	No	Yes; want a movie theater, bowling alley, swimming pool
Religion	Religious programs	Yes, 4 local churches	Yes, more civic minded involvement and ecumenical acceptance of diversity in culture and beliefs
Social Service Programs	Child-care	No	Yes, need a day care center
	Adoption	Yes	No
	Domestic Violence	Yes	Yes, available 24 hours, need advocate training
	Seniors	No	Yes – including a senior day care services or home health care aides
	Disability services	No	Yes and public facilities need ADA architectural modifications
	Counseling-adults	Yes	Yes, available 24 hours
	Counseling-teens	Yes	Yes, available 24 hours
	Legal services	No	Yes
	Suicide prevention	Yes	Yes, available 24 hours
	Public assistance	Yes	Yes, available part time
Tribal Governance	Tribal recognition	Yes	Federally recognized tribe, part of Doyon Corporation
	Indian child welfare	Yes	Yes, available at the MNVC office
	Youth courts	No	
	Tribal courts	No	
Cultural	Dog-sledding	Yes	Yes

Services			
Cultural Services	Elders' Group	No	Yes
	Music	No	Yes
	Subsistence food preparation	No	Yes
	Dance group	No	Yes
	Arts and Crafts	Yes	Yes
	Language programs	No	Yes
	Spirit camps	Yes, for youth	Yes
	Storytelling	No	Yes
Other			

Economic Development Assessment

Typical Jobs	# of Jobs	Is it filled by a community person?	Fulltime	Seasonal
Arts and Crafts	0	No		
City Administrator	1	Yes	Yes	
City Clerk	1	Yes	Yes	
Principal	1	Yes	Yes	
Teacher/Teacher aide	10	Yes		
Environmental Specialist	1	Yes		
Commercial Fisherman	N/A			
Fish Processor	N/A			
Logger				
Forester				
Health Aide	1	Yes		
Nurse Practitioner	0			
Equipment Operator	10-15	Yes		
Mechanic	3-5	Yes		
Construction	8	Yes		
Housing Manager	0			
Public Safety Officer	2	Yes		
Fire Fighter	16	Yes		
HAZWOPER person	15	Yes		
Business owner	?	Yes		
Driver/Pilot	?	Yes		
Tribal Administrator	1	Yes	Yes	
Counselor	?	Yes		
Water Treatment Operator	2	Yes	Yes	
Sewage Treatment Operator	2	Yes, same as WTO	Yes	
Landfill Operator	1	Yes	Yes	

Power Plant Operator	1	Yes	Yes	
Bulk Fuel Operator	2	Yes		
Internet Server Technician	1	Yes	No	
Cable TV or Telephone Installer	2	Yes	Yes	



Future Leaders of McGrath! 5/2002

Job Training, Education, and Capacity Building Assessment

Training/Education/Capacity Building Opportunities

Category	Type	Existing job in community	Training/education needed?	Is training available in village?
Agriculture	Farmer	No	Yes	No
Arts and Crafts	Artisans	No	Yes	Yes
City Government	City Manager	Yes	Yes	No
	City Clerk	Yes	Yes	No
Telecommunications	Computer Technician	Yes	Yes	On the job
Education	Principal	Yes	Yes	No
	Teacher/Teacher Aide	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environment	Environmental Specialist	Yes	Yes	No

Fishing	Commercial fisherman	N/A		
Fish processing	Fish processor	N/A		
Forestry	Logger	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Forester	No	Yes	No
Health	Health Aide	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Nurse Practitioner	No	Yes	No
Heavy equipment operation and maintenance	Equipment Operator	Yes	Yes	No
Mining (including gravel)	Miner	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oil and gas	Driller	No	Yes	No
Public Safety	Village Public Safety Officer	Yes	Yes	No
	Emergency Response	Yes	Yes	No
	HAZWOPER – hazardous waste training	No	Yes	No
	Fire fighter	Yes	Yes	No
Small Business	Business owner	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Driver/Pilot	Yes	Yes	No
Tribal/IRA Government	Tribal Administrator	Yes	Yes	No
Utilities	Water treatment operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Sewage treatment operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Landfill operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Power plant operator	Yes	Yes	No
	Bulk fuel operator	Yes	Yes	No
Other				

Basic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assets/Needs	Do you have it?	If this is lacking, does your community need it?
Safe Drinking Water	Yes	Source will not meet imminent change in regulations
Adequate Supply of Water	Yes	Source and current treatment plant will not meet imminent change in regulations
Certified Water Treatment Operators	Yes	

Safe Sewage Disposal and Treatment	Yes	Inadequate aeration at sewer lagoon
Permitted Landfill	Yes	
Recycling Program	No	Yes
Used Oil Storage Area	Yes	DOT has, need community awareness program
Lead Acid Battery Collection Area	Yes	Need community awareness and improvement
Tank Farms with Secondary Containment	Some, Yes	Yes
Fuel Spill Clean-up Materials	Yes	Yes, see Yukon Fuel, City and Emergency Response personnel
Knowledge of fuel spill areas	Yes	Yes, need documented information, and site locations on maps
Developable Land	No	Yes
Fuel Spill Prevention Plan	Yes/No	Yes, see Yukon Fuel Plan, Mutual Aid agreement between Yukon Fuel and City
Hazardous Waste Response Team	Yes	Yes
Erosion Control	No	YES
Contaminated Sites Identified	Yes/No	Yes, but not all confirmed
Healthy Subsistence Food	Yes*	Diminished supply
Environmental Education Programs	No	Yes, Environmental Director is developing
Healthy Wildlife Populations	Yes	Healthy, but moose numbers are down and a predator control plan is critical. Calf mortality is too high.
Old Military Site Clean-up Plans	Yes	Yes, military site clean-up not complete nor needs completely identified
Hazardous Waste Collection Area	No	Yes
Protected Watershed Plan	No	Yes
Community Environmental Plan	No	Yes, Environmental Director is developing
Environmental Impact Statement	Yes	Yes; have one study, based upon streambank erosion/flood control project
Other		



Karen Ladeguard, UAF McGrath Center,
Coordinator....."I like the people and the feeling of community spirit, everyone helps
each other."



Kuskokwim River Erosion-McGrath 6/2003

Assessment of Other Items

Asset or Need	Do you have it?	How would you rate it?	Do you need it?
Museum	No	High	Yes
Preservation of Historical Buildings	No	Average	Yes
Visitor Center	No	High	Yes
Solid Waste Incinerator	No	Average	Yes
New Water Treatment Plant	No	High	Yes
Rural Education/UAF building	No	High	Yes

Road to Ruby & the Yukon	No	High	Yes
Fire fighting mobile response unit	No	High	Yes
Communications equipment for Police, Fire, Search & Rescue teams	No	High	Yes
EMT and ETT Training	Yes	High	Yes
Domestic Violence Advocate Training	No	High	Yes
Community Building	No	High	Yes

Capital Projects and Infrastructure Priorities

Project Name	Potential Resource(s)	Projects or programs that relate to this project
Flood Control/Streambank Erosion	US Army Corps of Engineers grant; AK Community Development Block Grant	Hard-surface Roads
Hard-surface Roads	BIA/BLM grant	
Senior Housing	HUD grant	Community health and safety
Barge docking location		Flood Control/Streambank Erosion
Broadband wireless	Mcgrathalaska.net	Lone Eagle, economic development, job creation
Water Treatment Plant	VSW, Denali Commission, IHS	Community Health
Water/Sewer System Expansion	VSW, Denali Commission	Economic Development
Water service truck	Capital Matching Grant VSW	Community health and safety
Regional Health Clinic	Denali Commission, TCC	Community health
KSKO radio station	Foundations	Economic Development, communications
Sewer Lagoon Aeration	VSW	Community health
Rural Education Center	UAF, Foundations	Job skills and training
Day Care Center, children and elders	Denali Commission, TCC, DCED, Foundations, HUD, DFYS	Community health
Community Building	DCED, Denali Commission	Economic development, multipurpose for job skills and training
Visitor Center	Denali Commission, DCED,	Economic development
Captain Snow Building	Capital Matching Grant, VSW, DCED, Denali Commission,	Economic development, renovation for revenue generation, community gatherings and training,

Social, Health, and Cultural Services Priorities

Program or Service Name	Potential Resource(s)	Projects or programs that relate to this project
Sub Regional Health Clinic	Denali Commission and TCC	Acquisition of 16-acre land tract; clinic director position; expanded medical and health services that will be available to all residents, not just Native Alaskans.
Museum	UAF grant	Acquisition of 16-acre land tract
Senior Housing	HUD	
Day Care Center	Conveyance of FAA Bldg #103	Acquisition of 16-acre land tract or 3 BLM lots

Economic Development Priorities

Project Name	Potential Resource(s)	Projects or programs that relate to this project
Acquisition of Howard Rock Foundation/AVI 16-acre tract	City and Tribal reserve accounts	Subregional Health Clinic, museum, KSKO building, Rural Ed/UAF building
Acquisition of 3 lots from BLM	Conveyance with submission of a business development plan	New water treatment plant and new well; alternate plan, Rural Ed/UAF building
Visitor Center		Museum or KSKO building
Community Web page	Local Students and mcgrathalaska.net	Eco-tourism; arts and craft Internet sales; local mentoring database

Job Training, Education, and Capacity Building Priorities

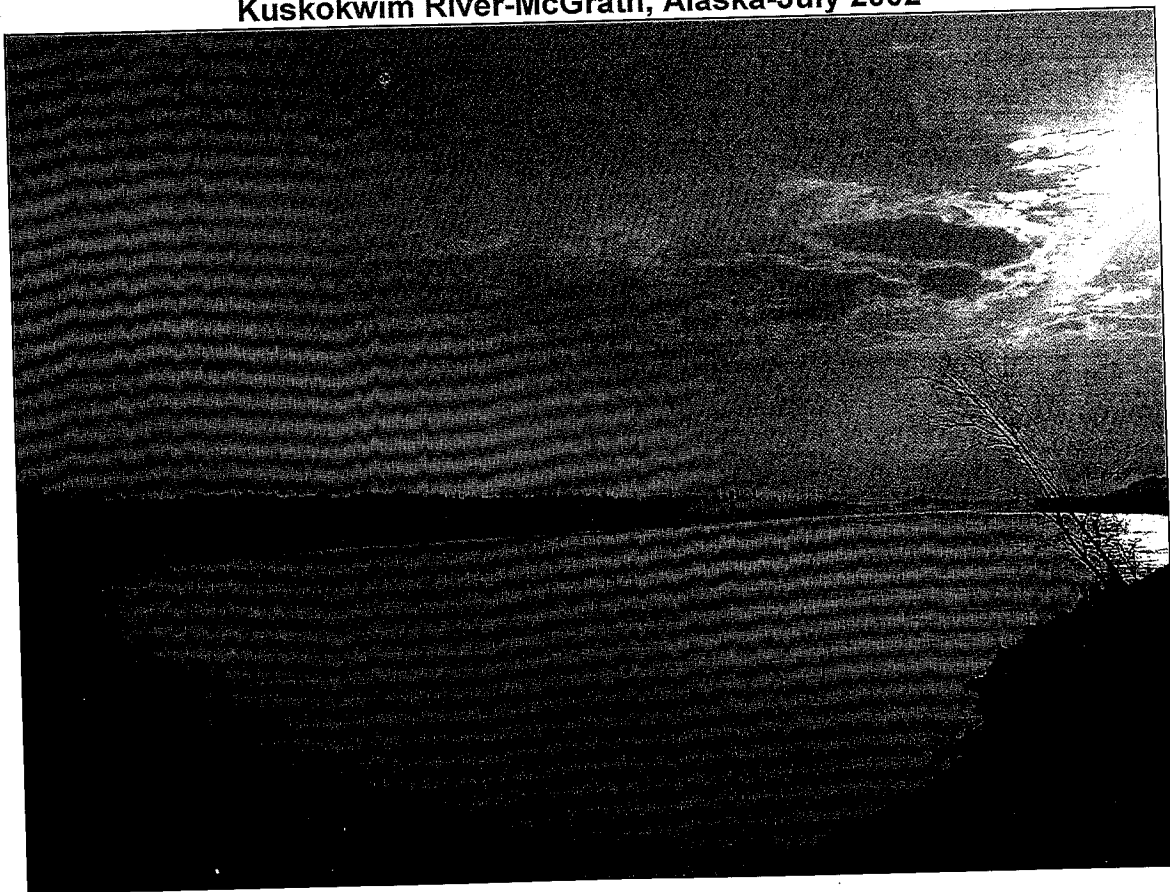
Project Name	Potential Resource(s)	Projects or programs that relate to this project
Rural Education/UAF McGrath Site Building	Convey FAA bldg #103 to City; move to an improved lot	
Lone Eagle, on-site and on-line training	TCC and local businesses	Eco-tourism; historical preservation of pictures of Elders and stories; Internet arts and crafts sales;

		Community web page
Local mentoring database	Local students and mcgrathalaska.net	Lone Eagle; Broadband wireless development

Environmental Priorities

Project Name	Potential Resource(s)	Projects or programs that relate to this project
Flood Control/Streambank Erosion	Army Corps of Engineers; AK DCED	
Fuel Spill Contamination Assessment/Cleanup	DEC/EPA/BIA	
Recycling Program	ALPAR	

Kuskokwim River-McGrath, Alaska-July 2002

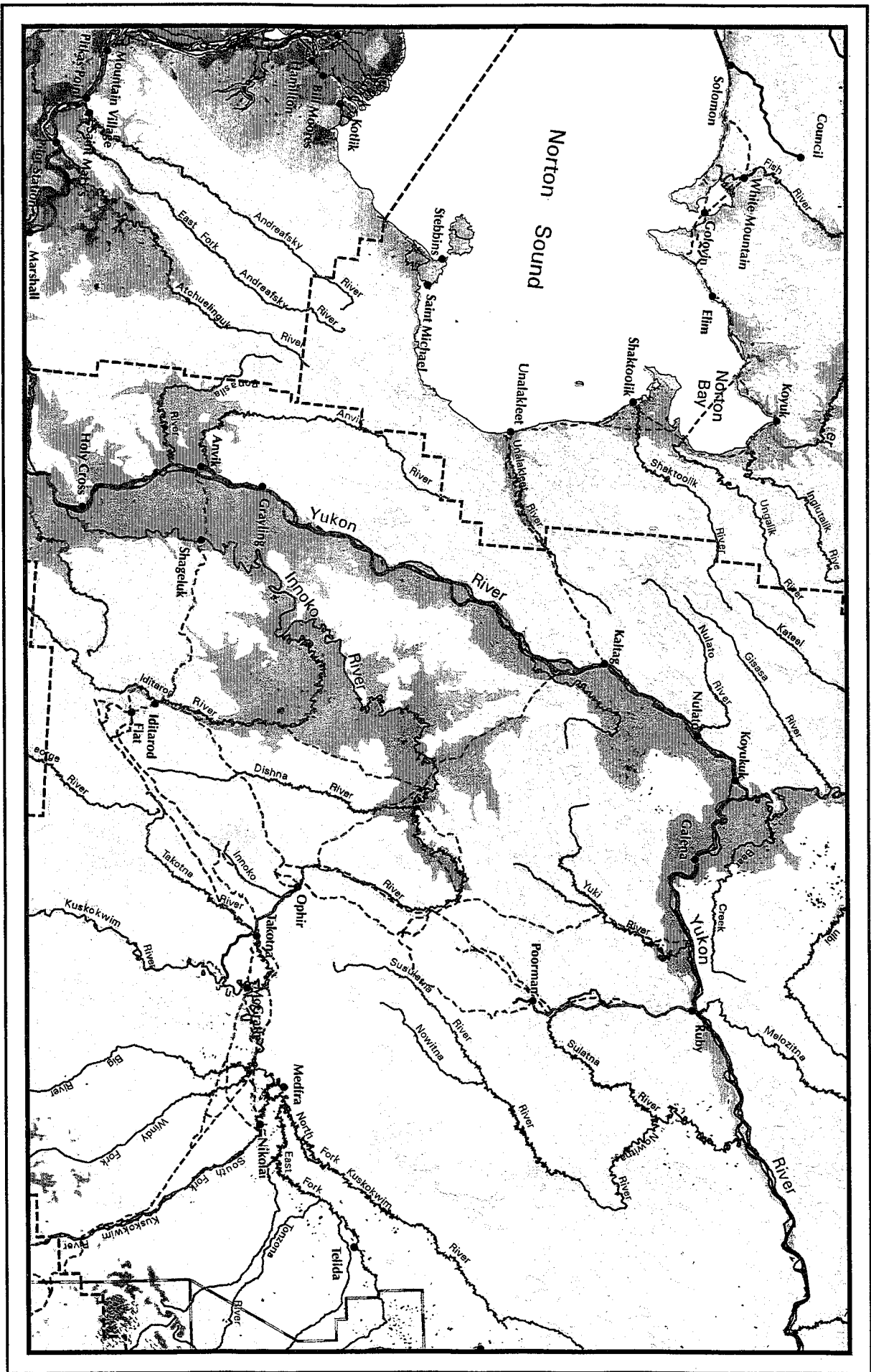


McGrath Strategic Plan-Public Process Record

- Memorandum of Agreement:
Between City of McGrath, McGrath Native Village Council
And Iditarod School District to establish a community Strategic
Plan
- Public Meeting: April 17, 2000
Business leaders, Federal, State and local government
organizations as well as general public were invited to share
ideas, activities and common goals.
- Public Meeting: June 21, 2000
This was a follow-up meeting of the April 17th meeting with the
intent of sharing common goals and expectations for the future of
McGrath. Surveys from individuals at these two meeting are used
to formulate a priority of issues and projects to address.
- Community Strategic Planning Meeting June 17, 2002
- Breakfast Club Meeting July 12, 2002
- Breakfast Club Meeting August 9, 2002
- Summary of Community Strategic Planning Meeting August 28, 2002.
- Meeting to finalize and approve plan June 13, 2003 .



Tyler Samuelson-Son of Debby Hartman, MTNT Executive
Administrative Assistant.....*"I like softball in the summer."*



11940 BUSINESS BLVD., #205, EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA 99577
(907) 694-4499

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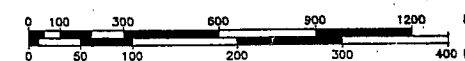
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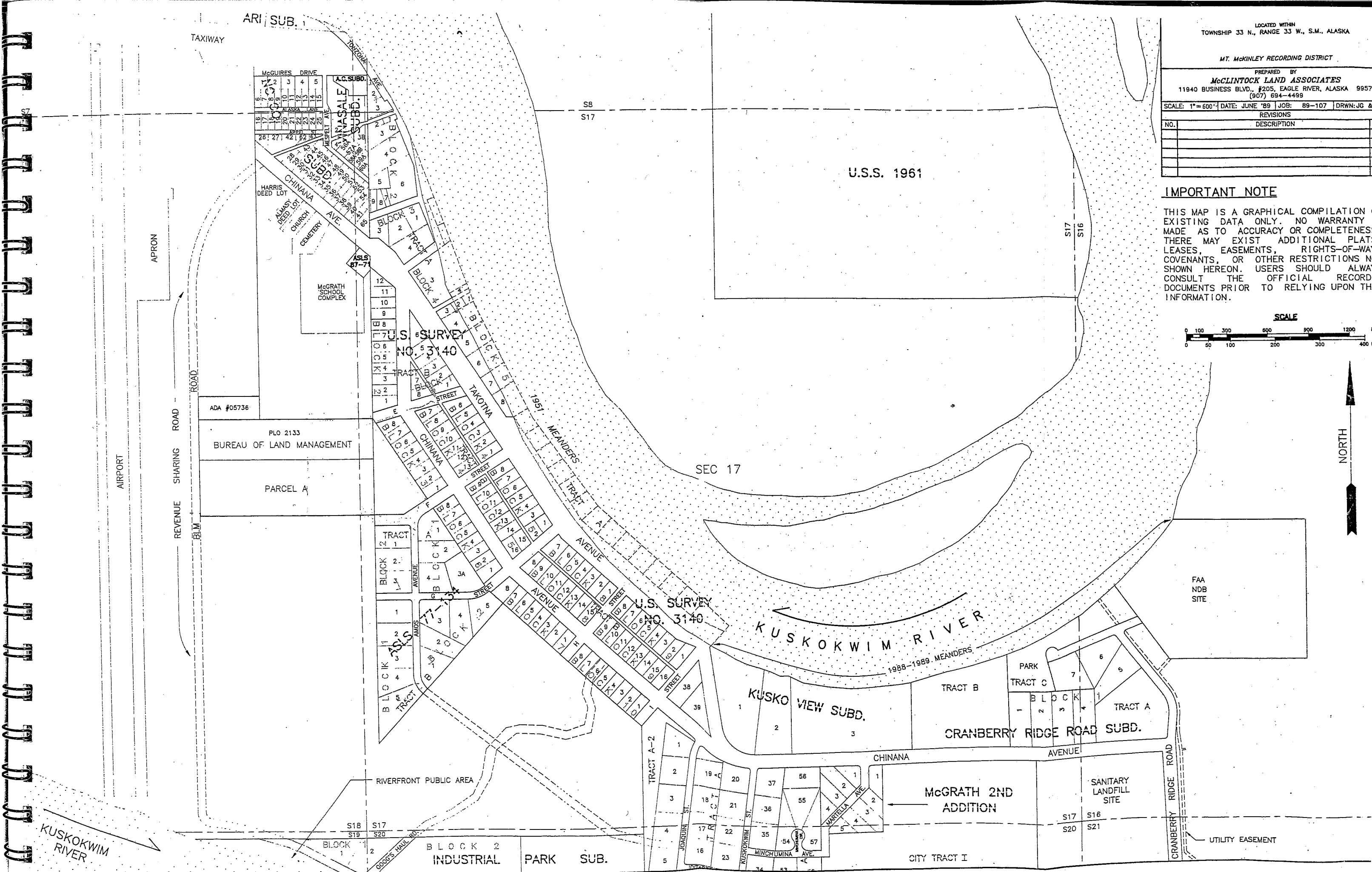
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SHEET 3 OF 5

LOCATED WITHIN

TOWNSHIP 33 N., RANGE 33 W., S.M., ALASKA

MT. MCKINLEY RECORDING DISTRICT

PREPARED BY

McCLINTOCK LAND ASSOCIATES

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